

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on September 6, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 6-8, 13, 18, 19, 24, 29, 31, and 32 are amended, claims 5, 28, 30, and 37 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-4, 6-27, 29, and 31-36 are now pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made to independent claims 1, 13, 24, and 32 incorporate at least one of the elements identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by the cited references in claims 5 and 30. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 13, 24, and 32, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the claims which depend therefrom are also deemed allowable. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 13-17, 23-27, and 32-36 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,629,787).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, in the interest of moving this case to issuance, Applicant has amended independent claims 13, 24, and 32 to recite at least one element identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by the cited references in an effort to more timely receive a notice of allowance for the pending claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter recited in claims 13, 24, and 32 prior to the instant amendments in one or more continuation applications.

For the reasons provided above, Applicant submits that independent claims 13, 24, and 32, as amended, are in condition for allowance. That is, independent claims 13, 24, and 32 contain at least one element identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by the Lee, et al. reference or other cited art.

Claims 14-17, 23, 25-27, and 33-36 depend from allowable independent claims 13, 24, or 32 and are, therefore, also deemed allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and

withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claims 13-17, 23-27, and 32-36 is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 13, 17-18, 24 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nokawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,273,536) in view of Ahne et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,406,110). Claims 4, 9-12, 14-16, 23, 25-27, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nokawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,273,536) in view of Ahne et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,406,110) and further in view of Lee et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,629,787).

Applicant respectfully also traverses these rejections. However, in the interest of moving this case to issuance, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 13, and 24 to recite at least one element identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by the cited references in an effort to more timely receive a notice of allowance for the pending claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter recited in claims 1, 13, and 24 prior to the instant amendments in one or more continuation applications.

For the reasons provided above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 13, and 24, as amended, are in condition for allowance. That is, independent claims 1, 13, and 24 contain at least one element identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by the above cited references or other cited art.

Claims 2, 3, 17, 18, and 28 depend from allowable independent claims 1, 13, and 24 and are, therefore, also deemed allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claims 1-3, 13, 17-18, 24 and 28 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-8, 19-22, and 29-31 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of these claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Gregg W. Wisdom at (360) 212-8052.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 25th day of October, 2005.

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